

The Farmington Enterprise

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR — NO. 17

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1966

EIGHTEEN PAGES

Twp. Employees Pension Plan Gets Approval

A pension plan for all regular Farmington Township employees, under study and preparation for the past several months, was officially approved by action of the Farmington Township Board at its regular meeting Monday night.

The action was taken following an outline of provisions in the plan to Board members by Township Attorney Terry Brennan. Approval was made contingent on an okay from the state pension plan commission. It provides for pensions for employees upon reaching age 65, contributing one percent of their pay plus an additional percent for each year they had worked for the township prior to retiring.

AT THE SUGGESTION of Supervisor Curt Hall, the Board is also planning to consider sharing in the cost of some type of a group hospitalization plan.

Spec. Election Set For C'ville School Dist.

Voters in the Clarenceville School District will go to the polls for a Special Election next Monday, January 17, to vote on a millage renewal proposition.

School officials emphasized that passage of the request for renewal of the seven mill levy for operations will not increase the present tax rate. The seven mill operations levy expired at the end of 1965, and voters are being asked to renew it for another ten years.

All registered voters of the Clarenceville School District who own property which is assessed for ad valorem taxes within the School District, or are the legal husband or wife of such owner, may vote. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and all voters in line at 8 o'clock will be allowed to vote.

Voters in precinct 1 will vote at the Junior High School and those in precinct 2, at the Senior High School.

Tree Pick-up In Twp. Friday

A special township-wide collection of Christmas trees has been scheduled for this Friday, January 14, Farmington Township officials announced this week.

Residences are advised to have their trees out near the edge of the road on Thursday night to assure a pick-up of their tree on Friday. Only trees that are out at the edge of the road will be collected. It was emphasized.

This is a special collection being made and only Christmas trees will be picked up. Any other garbage or trash placed out for collection will not be taken at this time, township officials stated.

JC SURVEY REVEALS

Findings of the special Community Attitude Survey conducted during the latter part of 1965 by the Farmington Jaycees were released this week.

While only 303 responses were received to the JC's questionnaire representing a very small percentage of the total number of families and business places in Farmington City and Township, they still felt that it represented a good cross-section of the community, both geographically and economically. Questionnaires were filled out and returned by 172 people in the township and 131 in the city.

INDICATED as wanted most to make Farmington a better place in which to live by both city and township citizens was a community center or civic auditorium. A total of 78.4 percent of those responding expressed a desire for this type of facility in the community.

Ranked second by those filling questionnaires was a year-round swimming pool in the community. The desire for this type of facility in the community was expressed by 78.2 percent of the City of Farmington while only 12.2 percent in the township.

Actually, better roads and streets were the thing desired most by township residents. A total of 77.1 percent of the township homeowners indicated this was the most needed item in the community. Only slightly over 6 percent in the City of Farmington felt better roads and streets were needed, however, dropping this down into fourth spot for the total community.

Ranking third as very much desired by both city and township citizens was better traffic safety and fire protection. Township filters felt this more

strongly than did those filling questionnaires from the city.

FOLLOWING in the fifth and sixth spots, respectively, in the city and township combined were a better recreation program and the development of more parks and playgrounds. Township citizens gave the edge to a better recreation program while in the township, 16.9 percent felt that more parks and playgrounds should be developed.

Of the 172 submitting questionnaires in the township, 16.9 percent felt that there was a need for better township government and officials as well as a better zoning and enforcement. Citizens of the city were much less critical of their government and zoning and enforcement.

In rating various types of See JAYCEE SURVEY Page 8A



FARMINGTON'S FIRST BABY in 1966, Darrell Wayne Keen, is held by his mother, Madeline, at their home in Farmington Township. The father, Clifton Keen, is holding the couple's other child, Diane Lynn. The new year's first baby was born at 2 a.m. on January 1.

First Baby of 1966 Arrived January 1st

Winner of the "First Baby Contest", sponsored by the Farmington Enterprise and local merchants, is little Darrell Wayne Keen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Keen of 3715 12 Mile Road in Farmington Township.

Farmington's first new baby of 1966 was born in St. Mary Hospital in Livonia at 2 a.m. on January 1 weighing seven pounds and four ounces. Dr. Don R. Krohn, M.D., with offices at 22023 Orchard Lake Road in the Farmington Professional Park, delivered the baby.

THE KEENS HAVE one other child, two-year-old Diane Lynn. They have made their

\$25,000 Lost in Fire At Farmington C. C.

A fire at the Farmington Country Club caused an estimated \$25,000 damage to a maintenance building, and equipment and other items stored there.

The fire broke out at 1:46 a.m. on Saturday, January 8, when a coal furnace exploded in the 40 x 90 foot maintenance building. Extensive damage resulted to the roof and interior of the cinder block structure as well as to a tractor, lawn mowers, golf carts, tools and other equipment being stored there.

A Jeep and a supply of new lockers in the building were also damaged.

The building is located about one-quarter mile south of 12 Mile Road, east of the Country Club, 2770 Haggerty Road.

Stricter regulations to control the moving of houses from one community into Farmington Township may soon be forthcoming.

The Township Board instructed Supervisor Terry Brennan Monday night to make suggestions that might strengthen present regulations.

Supervisor Hall stated that 15 homes were moved into the township during 1965 and that he was fearful a lot more older homes might be brought in as a result of the substantial amount of additional expressway construction work presently proposed.

A higher fee for inspection services on these older homes proposed to be moved in has been suggested. It was also suggested that consideration be given to forbidding the moving in of any home over 15 years old.

Exchange Pupils Will Speak to Area Groups

A letter from officials of the local chapter of American Field Service was read by Supervisor Curt Hall at the regular Township Board meeting Monday night, January 10.

The letter advised that the foreign exchange students presently enrolled at the high schools in Farmington were available for speaking engagements before local groups. An invitation was also extended to officials to attend the AFS "Evening Gala" planned in April.

Ask Planners For Review on Apts Denial

The much discussed and strongly contested request to re-zone a 4.8 acre parcel of land at the northeast corner of Northwestern Highway and Middlebelt Road from business and single family residential zoning to multiple to permit a 44 unit apartment development is back in the spotlight again.

On Nov. 29, following a public hearing at which strong protests were registered and petitions signed by 200 residents were filed opposing the re-zoning, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny the request.

THE PLANNERS took this action despite the recommendation of Charles Leman, township planning consultant, that this would be a good use for this problem parcel and act as a good buffer between the business property on Northwestern and residential homes to the north and east.

The Farmington Township Board voted Monday night to refer this matter back to the planners in view of the fact they received from the Oakland County Zoning Coordinating Committee stating that "The committee could see no reason for denying this request."

Like the township planning consultant, the county coordinating committee felt that apartments at this location would provide a good transition development between commercial on Northwestern and single family homes to the north and east.

WENDELL BROWN, attorney for Franklin Forest and Franklin Fairways citizens strongly objecting to the re-zoning, raised question at the regular Township Board meeting on why the re-zoning request had ever been forwarded to the county coordinating committee in the first place.

He was informed by Supervisor Hall that all re-zoning requests, whether approved or rejected by the planners, were referred to the county committee.

City Now Offering Sr. Citizens Urged to File For Tax-Break

City Assessor Herman Keating reminded senior citizens in the City of Farmington who feel that they might qualify for a tax exemption under the new Homestead Tax Exemption Act to get in and see him as soon as possible.

Complete information as well as the necessary forms that must be filled out will be provided.

Homeowners 65 or over who are making less than \$5,000 a year can receive substantial reductions in their local property taxes provided they meet a few other basic requirements, Keating reminded. One of these is that their total property holdings have an assessed valuation as equalized of under \$10,000 and that they make their residence in Michigan at least six months of the year. It is also a requirement that applicants be owners of property in the state at least seven years before applying.

Necessary forms for tax exemptions under the new senior citizens act are expected to be filed prior to March 1.

City Now Offering Swimming Program

The Farmington City Recreation Department, through the cooperation of the Clarenceville School District, is now able to provide evening swimming at Clarenceville High School, Middlebelt and a Mile Road in their new Olympic-size pool.

This pool is the ultimate in design being "L" shaped and providing a general swimming area and a separate diving area.

Recreation swimming will be open for male and female, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. A nominal fee of 30 cents for adults and 15 cents for students per hour session will be the cost for all participants. Admission to the pool will be on a first come, first serve basis, with priority being given to the Clarenceville School District residents. Attendance figures to date suggest that the pool can accommodate a sizable number of Farmingtonites wishing to join in the fun with their neighbors to the East.

Adult instruction for "Learn to Swim" classes will be offered Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. Student "Learn to Swim" classes, Saturday at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These instruction will be on a ten-week program commencing the week of January 16, with an instruction fee of \$4.00.

OPEN SWIMMING on Saturday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., will be available for speaking engagements before local groups. An invitation was also extended to officials to attend the AFS "Evening Gala" planned in April.

Studying Home Moves to Twp.

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Fisher Resigns, on School Bd. 10 Years

The resignation of Vernon P. Fisher as trustee of the Farmington Board of Education was revealed at a meeting of the board on Monday evening, January 10.

In his letter of resignation, effective January 10, Fisher stated that his business obligations have increased to the point that he is no longer able to devote the necessary time to board duties and activities.

By unanimous action of the board, William B. Smolek, 23909 Wellington, was appointed to fill the vacancy until June 30, 1966, when Fisher's term expires.

Fisher, the oldest member of the present board in years of service, was appointed to the Board of Education on December 8, 1955, replacing Farley

Thomson who had resigned. In the June election of 1964, Fisher polled the second highest number of votes, with Leland Clifford, now board president, leading by only a few votes.

RE-ELECTED in June of 1959, Fisher topped Clifford by ten votes and in the election of 1962, for a four-year term, Fisher ran second to Clifford by only three votes. He served as treasurer of the board from July 1, 1960, through June of 1963.

Fisher, 62, whose home is at



WILLIAM B. SMOLEK

23909 Wellington Road, Village of Wood Creek Farms, has resided in Farmington since 1942. He is married and the father of three daughters who were educated in the Farmington schools. He holds a bachelor of engineering degree from State University of Iowa and has been employed in the engineering profession since leaving college.

For the past 30 years Fisher has worked for the George A. Bass Construction Company, and several times has attended School Board meetings after having worked around the clock.

See FISHER RESIGNS Page 8A

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Act to Implement Big Water Project

Action was taken by the Township Board Monday night to implement a go ahead on the extension of Detroit water facilities into a substantial portion of the northeast and north-central sections of Farmington Township.

A resolution was adopted requesting that the Oakland County DPW act as the township's agent to construct, operate and maintain a North Farmington Water System.

The area to be served would include properties north of the

Twp. Wants Liquor License Renewal Denied

Renewal of the liquor license presently held by the owners of the now defunct Parker House Restaurant on Grand River Ave. east of Nine Mile is being requested by the township to be denied.

Official action was taken at the meeting of Township Board on Monday evening, January 10, to deny the renewal of a license of the Liquor Control Commission goes ahead with renewals at its own discretion.

Only one more liquor license can be issued in the township until after the 1970 census is completed. The feeling is that this license as well as the one presently held by the Parker House Restaurant owner's should go only to very high class types of establishments that might want to locate in the township.

The Parker House Restaurant has not been operating for more than a year now. The license has been offered for sale on the open market, township officials reported.

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Off-Street Parking Program is Slated

The off-street parking program for the north side of Grand River Avenue from Hawthorne to Violet streets will come up for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Farmington City Planning Commission on Monday night, January 25. The matter was tabled at the January 10 meeting of the Commission to allow further time for study.

The off-street parking program for the north side of Grand River Avenue from Hawthorne to Violet streets will come up for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Farmington City Planning Commission on Monday night, January 25. The matter was tabled at the January 10 meeting of the Commission to allow further time for study.

Flood Plain Apts. Site Plan Approved

The flood plain apartments approved recently by the Farmington City Council moved one step closer to reality Monday night, January 10, as the City Planning Commission approved a site plan presented by the developers.

One snag in the site plan was solved by the developers, Albert Rosenbaum and Max Dobrowski, when they agreed to move one of the seven apartment house buildings to eliminate a ten-foot zoning ordinance.

The developers, even though planners agreed it was minor, could have meant further delays for the builders who are anxious to get construction under way on the 91-unit apartment project.

STILL TO BE approved by the City Planners are engineering specifications and the building details. The apartment house project is slated for construction on a 6.1 acre parcel of land on the north side of Grand River Avenue just west of the Lower Rouge River bends.

See FLOOD PLAIN APTS. Page 8A

Bowling Alley Dance Permit Request Denied

By a split vote, the Township Board has denied the issuance of a dance permit to the Country Lanes bowling alley and cocktail lounge on Nine Mile Road at Truck.

The permit was requested to make it possible for a few to dance around the juke box area. A special committee of three Township Board members were asked to study the request and make a recommendation.

Their recommendation was to grant the permit. While Tom Nolan, Floyd Cairns, members of the committee, voted to grant the permit, Treasurer Elsie Avery and Trustees Art Blawie and Earl Oppenheimer voted against it.



NEARING COMPLETION are the 116-unit apartments under construction in front of Botsford General Hospital, Grand River at Eight Mile Road, in Farmington. A total of 13 buildings started in the third quarter of 1965 are expected to have units ready for tenants this spring. The view of the project above was taken looking north from the entrance to Botsford General. The Botsford Inn is located directly to the east of the apartments.